M A C H Y N L L E T H U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT for the YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

(including SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT).

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MEDICAL OFFICER:-	DAN E. DAVIES, M.B., Ch.B., LONDONDERRY TERRACE, MACHYNLLETH.
SANITARY INSPECTOR:-	B. BROOKS EVANS, A.R.I.S., M.S.I.A., TOWN HALL, MACHYNLLETH.
DISTRICT NURSE:-	MISS B. WOOD, C.M.B., MAENGWYN STREET, MACHYNLLETH.
HOSPITALS:-	MACHYNLLETH, CORRIS & DISTRICT HOSPITAL. KING EDWARD VII. T.B. HOSPITAL.

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MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health,
including part Report of the Sanitary Inspector,
for the Year 1937.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Machynlleth Urban Area for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

SECTION A.

Vital Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	1,183.
Estimated population (1937 Mid-Year) Showing a decrease of 4 on the previous Year.	1,826.
Number of inhabited houses (end 1937)	517.
Rateable Value	£7,205.
Product of a Penny Rate	£27. 13. 3.

Social conditions have remained the same since last year's report, the chief industry still being the Depot of the Great Western Railway. The average number of unemployed per week during the year was 50 to 60.

LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate:	Males 15,	Females 10,	Total 25.
	Illegitimate:	" 2,	" 2,	" 4.
	Total:	" 17,	" 12,	" 29.
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate:	Males 1,	Females 2,	Total 3.
	Illegitimate:	" 0,	" 0,	" 0.
	Total:	" 1,	" 2,	" 3.
TOTAL BIRTHS (Live and Still)		Males 18,	Females 14,	Total 32.

Birth Rate (Live Births) per 1,000 estimated population	15.88
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still)	93.7
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	1.6

DEATHS: Males 10, Females 25, Total 35.

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	19.16
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	Nil.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	2.
Death Rate per 1,000 live births (Total)	62.5
Death Rate under 1 year of age of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	120.
Death Rate under 1 year of age of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil.
Deaths from Tuberculosis	2.
(a) Pulmonary: Male 1, Female 1.	
(b) Non-Pulmonary: Male 0, Female 0.	
Death Rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	1.09
Deaths from Cancer (all ages): Male 1, Females 3: Total	4.
Death Rate per 1,000 population	2.19
Deaths from Heart Disease: Males 3, Females 7: Total	10.
Death Rate per 1,000 population	5.4

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1937.

BIRTH RATE	PER 1,000 POPULATION.
England and Wales	14.9
Machynlleth Urban Area	15.88

STILL BIRTH RATE	PER 1,000 POPULATION.
England and Wales	0.60
Machynlleth Urban Area	1.60

DEATH RATE	PER 1,000 POPULATION.
England and Wales	12.4
Machynlleth Urban Area	19.16

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Influenza	0	5	5
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Cancer	1	3	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	0	1	1
Heart Disease	3	7	10
Other Circulatory Diseases	0	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Pneumonia	0	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	4	5
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0
Congenital Debility and Premature Births . .	2	0	2
Senility	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	1	1
Violence	0	0	0
Other diseases	1	0	1
TOTALS	10	25	35

TABLES SHOWING DEATHS AT DIFFERENT AGE PERIODS.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Under 1 year	2	0	2
1 - 10 years	0	0	0
10 - 20 "	1	1	2
20 - 30 "	0	1	1
30 - 40 "	0	1	1
40 - 50 "	1	3	4
50 - 60 "	2	5	7
60 - 70 "	3	4	7
70 - 80 "	2	8	10
Over 80 years	1	2	3
TOTALS . .	12	25	37

NOTES:- The Death Rate for Machynlleth Urban Area continues to rise as shown:-

1935 . . . . . 16.2 per 1,000 population;
1936 . . . . . 17.48 " " ;
1937 . . . . . 19.16 " " .

This conforms with the general upward trend of the Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales, viz.,

1935 . . . . . 11.7 per 1,000 population;
1936 . . . . . 12.1 " " ;
1937 . . . . . 12.4 " " ,

and may be explained by the fact that the average age of the population is gradually increasing, with a consequent increase in liability of death among old people. Out of a total of 37 deaths in Machynlleth Urban Area in 1937, 13 died after attaining their 70th birthday,- 20 after their 60th birthday.

A satisfactory feature of the report is the fact that the Birth Rate has also increased from the abnormally low figure of 9.28 per 1,000 in 1936 to 15.88 per 1,000 population in 1937,- a figure which, it will be seen, is higher than the average of 14.9 per 1,000 for the whole of England and Wales.

The apparent enormous rise in the still-birth rate (1.60 per 1,000 population against 0.54 in 1936) must not be taken too literally, as this high figure represents 3 still births out of a total birth (live and still) of 32, whereas in 1936 there was 1 still birth out of a total birth (live and still) of 19.

Heart Disease continues as the "Captain of the Men of Death" in the Machynlleth Urban Area, accounting for 10 deaths out of a total of 35 and giving a death rate per 1,000 population of 5.4, the same as in 1936. This figure is twice as great as the next highest on the list, namely the Kidney Diseases and Influenza, each with 5 deaths out of 35.

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SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:-	One Medical Officer (Part Time). One Sanitary Inspector (Part Time). One District Nurse (Full Time). Names and particulars given on front page of cover.
LABORATORY FACILITIES:-	No change made since 1936.
AMBULANCE FACILITIES:-	No change made since 1936.
NURSING IN THE HOME:-	This is carried out by the District Nurse, who is also a Certified Midwife.
CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES:-	No change made since 1936.
HOSPITALS:-	There are two Hospitals within the Area, namely the Machynlleth, Corris and District Hospital for General and Maternity work, and King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Hospital for the Treatment of Tuberculosis.
NURSING HOMES:-	There are no private Nursing Homes at present registered in the Area.

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SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER:-	No new sources of public water supply, and no important extension of mains, were constructed during the year. The water supply is satisfactory both in quality and quantity, as was shown by bacteriological and chemical analyses carried out during the year.
DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:-	No important extension of drainage and sewerage systems were constructed during the year.
CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:-	All closets in the built-up area are on the Water Carriage system; flushing-water supply is very satisfactory. Some farm houses on the borders of the Area still have earth closet systems, and are kept in good order and proper sanitary condition.
RIVERS AND STREAMS:-	There are no rivers and streams within the Urban Area.

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PUBLIC CLEANSING:- The practice of removing trade refuse in addition to ordinary household refuse has proved very satisfactory. No complaints were received during the year from tenants or owners of adjoining properties of nuisances created by decaying trade refuse. Refuse is regularly collected and removed, twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

SHOPS:- No action was taken during the year under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS:- There are no such baths or pools in the Area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:- No action was taken during the year, and no cases were reported.

SCHOOLS:- The sanitary condition and water supply of all schools during the year were very satisfactory.

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SECTION D.

Housing.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of inspections recorded	180.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases inquired into, and number of houses disinfected	2.

Note:- The above figures do not include houses disinfected at the request of persons where no notifiable diseases had existed.

DRAINAGE.

No. of drains cleaned as a result of notices	21.
Number of new water closets as a result of notices	3.
Number of water closets repaired as a result of notices	17.
Number of new privies and ashpits	0.
Number of privies converted into water closets	0.

Note:- All houses within the built-up area are on the "water carriage" system.

WATER.

Number of houses provided with an adequate supply as a result of notices . . .	17.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number of new cowsheds erected	1.
Number of persons registered	10.
Number of premises registered and inspected	9.
Number of persons selling accredited milk and registered within the Urban Area	0.
Number of persons selling accredited milk within the Urban Area but registered outside the Area	1.
Number of persons selling Tuberculin Tested milk (registered in the Urban Area but milk produced outside the Area)	1.
Number of persons selling "Attested" milk	0.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number registered or licensed and inspected	2.
Number of new slaughterhouses	0.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number within the Urban Area	2.
Number dealt with as nuisances	0.

ANIMALS.

Number of cases causing nuisance and abated on demand . . . . . 1.

LODGING HOUSES.

Number within the Urban Area . . . . . 0.

CLERICAL WORK.

Number of informal notices issued . . . . . 30.
Number complied with . . . . . 13.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Number of Statutory Notices served . . . . . 11.
Number of Statutory Notices complied with . . . . . 9.
Number of Prosecutions . . . . . 0.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

Number of cases . . . . . 0.

HOUSING RURAL WORKERS ACTS.

Number of Houses reconstructed under these Acts . . . . . 0.

RENTS, etc., RESTRICTION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1933, Section 12.

Number of applications received for Certificates that a Dwelling House is not in a reasonable state of repair . . . . . 0.

CAMPERS IN VANS OR TENTS.

Number of nuisances . . . . . 0.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-

1. (a) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts . . . . . 90.

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose . . . . . 132.

2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses included in sub-head 1 above which were inspected under the Housing Consolidating Regulations, 1925 . . 30.

   (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose . . . . . 32.

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation . . . . . 30.

4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation . . . . . 0.

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of unfit houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers . . . . . 1.

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs . . . . . 0.

   (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
      (a) By owners . . . . . 0.
      (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners . . . . . 0.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied . . . . . 16.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners . . . . . 9.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners . . . . . 2.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made . . . . . 3.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders . . . . . 0.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made . . . . . 0.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit . . . . . 0.

Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.- Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year . . . . . 21.

(2) Number of families dwelling therein . . . . . 22.

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein . . . . . 143.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year . . . . . 4.

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year . . . . . 6.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases . . . . . 39.

Note:- By "persons" above is meant children and adults, irrespective of age.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding . . . . . 0.

(e) Number of cases of overcrowding in Local Authority's houses . . . . . 2.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(a) Factories:

Number of Inspections . . . . . 0.

Number of Written Notices . . . . . 0.

Number of Occupiers prosecuted . . . . . 0.

(b) Workshops:

Number of Inspections . . . . . 13.

Number of Written Notices . . . . . 4.

Number of Occupiers prosecuted . . . . . 0.

(c) Workplaces:

Number of Inspections . . . . . 0.

Number of Written Notices . . . . . 0.

Number of Occupiers prosecuted . . . . . 0.

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(a) Want of Cleanliness:

Number of Defects found . . . . . 1.

Number of Defects remedied . . . . . 1.

(b) Want of Ventilation:

Number of Defects found . . . . . 1.

Number of Defects remedied . . . . . 1.

(c) Defective Drainage:

Number of Defects found . . . . . 1.

Number of Defects remedied . . . . . 0.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY:- The County Council is the Authority responsible for collection and examination of Milk samples.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS:- Apart from regular inspection of Slaughterhouses, Shops and Meat Stalls where food is prepared, no action was taken by the Local Authority.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD, etc:- The County Council is the Authority responsible for collection of samples under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

NUTRITION. No steps have been taken directly by the responsible Local Authority regarding the education of the public on the subject of proper nutrition, but lectures are periodically given at various Societies and Institutes in the Area by independent bodies.

SHELLFISH (MOLLUSCAN):- There are no shellfish beds within the Area.

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SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The year 1937 was remarkably free from notifiable infectious diseases. With the exception of one case of Pneumonia and one of Puerperal Pyrexia, not a single case of infectious disease was notified during the year, as shown in the following table:-

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	/.	0
Pneumonia	1	1	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Other Diseases Generally Notifiable . .	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken during the year under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Excellent work for prevention and alleviation of blindness is carried on in the Area by the North Wales Society for the Blind.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or Section 172

of the Public Health Act, 1936, (relating to compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

TABLE OF NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 -	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
25 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 -	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55 -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

Two new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year; both cases were afforded Sanatorium treatment with very satisfactory results, both cases becoming quiescent, increasing in weight and general well-being.

One death occurred in a person who was receiving Hospital treatment at the time of death. The other death occurred in a person who refused Hospital or Sanatorium treatment. Both deaths occurred in persons who had been previously notified as suffering from Tuberculosis.

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DAN E. DAVIES.

Machynlleth,
September, 1938.